

REMARKS

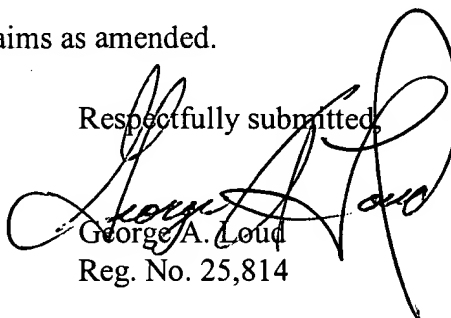
The rejection of claims 1, 3-5, 8 and 19 for anticipation by Takeda et al is respectfully traversed in view of the present amendments. The examiner will note that, by the present amendments, the independent claims 1 and 19 have been amended to define a silicon-containing reactant as a siloxane. A siloxane compound is characterized by the presence of the siloxane group -Si-O-Si-. In contradistinction, the only silicon-containing reactants disclosed or suggested by Takeda et al are alkoxy silanes represented by the general formula $(RO)_nSiH_{4-n}$. The alkoxy silanes of Takeda et al, of course, contain no siloxane group. Applicants theorize that the Si-O-Si groups of the siloxane reactant are formed directly into the SiO_2 molecules of the film product and there is no excess oxygen or excessive oxidation whereby the product film has a lower dielectric constant and is more stable than the films formed using the alkoxy silane reactant as the silicon source. Of course, the first stated objective of the present invention is the lowering of the dielectric constant. See page 3, lines 7-14 of the original specification.

It is noted that the examiner rejected claim 4, wherein the silicon-containing reactant is defined as tetramethyldisiloxane, for anticipation over Takeda. In rejecting claim 4 the examiner cited the disclosure of tetraethoxysilane in paragraph [0045] of Takeda. However, tetraethoxysilane cited by the examiner is not a siloxane, i.e., a compound having a Si-O-Si group and is certainly not the species of siloxane recited by claim 4. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 4 over Takeda is not understood and is traversed.

Finally, the rejection of claims 2 and 20 for obviousness over Takeda in view of Saito is traversed. Like Takeda, the only silicon-containing reactants disclosed by Saito are alkoxysilanes. Accordingly, the combination of Saito and Takeda fails for the same reason noted above in connection with the rejection for anticipation by Takeda.

In conclusion, it is respectfully requested that the examiner reconsider the rejections of record with a view toward allowance of the claims as amended.

Respectfully submitted,



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